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Third Annual Report  
On the  
Public Health of Cleator Moor,

By

JOHN CLARK, M.D., F.R.C.S., Ed.

Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health.

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1909.

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To THE CLEATOR MOOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,—

Allow me to submit to you my Third Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of your district.

The census of 1901 gave a population of the district of 8120 and the report of last year was estimated at 8000 and as the number of inhabited houses is practically the same, although the birth rate has risen from 31.12 to 32.5 per thousand, and the death rate has declined from 18.2 to 14.7, still I think our population is nearly stationary and an estimate of 8000 will be near the mark.

During 1908 two hundred and sixty births were registered in the district which represents a birth rate of 32.5 per thousand of the estimated population per annum and is 1.4 above the birth rate of last year and 2.4 above the average of the ten preceding years.

The total number of children born during the year as already stated was two hundred and sixty and of these one hundred and thirty seven were boys and one hundred and twenty three girls. I regret I am unable to state the number of legitimate and illegitimate births but such information has not been recorded by the Registrar in his returns.

The number of deaths registered in our district during the year was one hundred and sixteen but two deaths occurred in the Union Infirmary at Whitehaven belonging to Cleator Moor district so that the total number of deaths was one hundred and eighteen. This gives a death rate of 14.7 which is 3.5 below the death rate of last year and 1.5 below the average of the last ten years.

Twenty five deaths of infants under one year of age were registered during the year giving an infantile death rate of 3.1 of the estimated population per thousand which is .4 below the average of last year. The number of births registered during the year was two hundred and sixty, this gives the infant death rate per thousand births registered of 92.9 which is 19.1 below that of last year and 31.5 below the average of 124.4 for the ten preceding years.

In addition to these twenty five deaths of infants under one year of age there was registered during the year four deaths of infants between the ages of one and five years making a total of twenty nine deaths of children under five years of age; equivalent to a death rate of 3.6 which is 1.2 below the rate of 4.8 for the previous year.

Twenty nine deaths occurred in people over sixty five years of age giving a senile death rate of 3.6 which is 1.2 below the rate of 4.8 for the preceding year.

The total deaths from zymotic disease during 1908 have been five equivalent to a death rate of .62 which is exactly the same as the two preceding years. These deaths were all due to influenza and all occurred in people over twenty five years of age.

I am glad to report that no deaths occurred among those cases notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

The number of cases notified under the above Act was fifteen as compared with thirty four last year and ninety one in 1906. Of these cases notified eight were due to Scarlet Fever and seven to Erysipelas.

Five of the eight cases of Scarlet Fever were treated at Galemire Hospital and three at their own homes.

Three of the cases of Scarlet Fever were between the ages of one and five years the other five between five and fifteen.

Two of the cases of Erysipelas were between the ages of fifteen and twenty five the remaining five being between twenty five and sixty five. They were all treated in their own homes with the usual disinfecting and sanitary precautions taken.

In all cases of diseases notified the Sanitary Inspector and myself visited the infected houses and their surroundings, supplied disinfectants, remedied any nuisance or unsatisfactory condition found, and upon the cessation of the disease or the removal of the case to the Isolation Hospital had the houses properly disinfected.

The number of deaths from Phthisis Pulmonalis and other tubercular diseases are twenty, making a death rate of 2·5 from this disease, being an increase of ·25 on last year. I consider this is too high a death rate from this cause in our district, but I am unable to give the cause of it unless it has been due to the depression of trade which has been general over the country during 1908, and bringing privations to the poorer classes both as regards food and clothing.

On the 29th May the Sanitary Inspector and myself visited and inspected the Slaughter Houses in the district, the report of which is already in your hands. The Co-operative Society's Slaughter house in Market Square and Mr. Ewart's in Quarry Road, meet the requirements of the Local Government Board, but all the others are situated too near dwelling-houses, a fact probably explained by the time they have been in use and built before the present recommendations of the Local Government Board.

We are pleased to state that all our Slaughter Houses are well lighted and ventilated and plentifully supplied with cold water, the floors all slope to gullies placed outside, and in all cases the Slaughter Houses are clean and well kept and lime washing has been carefully attended to. The offal and manure from the lairs are in all cases quickly removed, thus avoiding any chances of nuisances arising.

On the 25th June, the Surveyor, Nuisance Inspector and myself, visited and inspected the Cowsheds and Dairies in the district, a report of which was duly submitted to you. In November we again visited those Cowsheds and Dairies where recommendations of improvement were made and sent in, a supplementary report which was adopted by your Council, and we trust that those recommendations which have not yet been carried out will be attended to without delay.

There are no Milk Shops in our district.

On the 29th January, I was asked to inspect two carcases at the Cleator Moor Co-operative Society's Slaughter House. One was that of a bullock, the other a pig. The former I considered fit for human consumption except the internal viscera which I ordered to be destroyed. The whole carcase and all organs of the pig I ordered to be destroyed, as I considered it quite unfit for food.

On the 1st of October, I was again asked to inspect a bullock at the Cleator Moor Co-operative Society's Slaughter House. After examination I passed the carcase, but ordered the internal viscera to be destroyed ; similarly, on the 5th October, I examined a carcase at Mr. McMellan's Slaughter House in Leconfield Street, and as I found this animal to be generally tuberculous I ordered the entire carcase and all viscera to be destroyed.

In August our Sanitary Inspector and myself visited and inspected house No. 22, in Wyndham Street. This house consists of a kitchen and three bedrooms with an entire cubic capacity of 3560 feet, while the cubic space of the sleeping compartments is 2650. Thirteen inmates reside in this house. This gives a space of 274 cubic feet to each, and a sleeping cubic space of 204.

The Minimum cubic space allowed by the Local Government Board for common lodging houses is 400 cubic feet if occupied by day and by night, and for sleeping rooms i.e. only occupied during the night 300 cubic feet.

I recommended that eight inmates were sufficient to occupy this house and that the tenant receive notice to quit this nuisance of overcrowding.

This recommendation has been carried out.

On the 17th September, I was informed that a case of overcrowding had been reported as occurring at No. 25, Fletcher Street. Our Nuisance Inspector and myself visited the premises and found upon examination that the inmates had 345 cubic feet of sleeping space each; as this is more than what the Local Government Board require for common lodging houses we could not regard the case as one of overcrowding.

On the 13th August I visited the waterworks and sources of water supply and found everything satisfactory. The water is abundant in quantity and excellent in quality. There is only one possible source of contamination of the reservoir and that is from the farm steading of Longlands, but as all sewage and liquid refuse is carefully collected into a bywash this danger is satisfactorily obviated.

On the 9th, 16th and 22nd July, our Surveyor and myself visited and inspected the whole of our Factories and Workshops, a report of which is already in your hands.

On the 18th November, we again inspected those Factories and Workshops where recommendations had been made and have sent in a supplementary report in which we were pleased to report some improvements.

We trust those recommendations not yet attended to will be speedily carried out.

As a general rule our Factories and Workshops are satisfactory.

Mr. Charles Gowan, our Sanitary Inspector, reported during the year 108 nuisances consisting of 67 defective and choked water closets, twenty choked gullies and sewers, nineteen insanitary yards, one escape of sewer gas and one accumulation of ashes. All of these have been remedied.

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever have been reported during the year, five of which were removed to Galemire Isolation Hospital.

Along with the Medical Officer of Health an inspection of the Slaughter Houses in the district was made, and in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health and the Surveyor, two inspections of the cowsheds and dairies in the district were made, reports of which were sent to your Council at the time.

Two cows and one pig were especially examined at the Slaughter House of the Co-operative Society, and one cow at Mr. McMellon's Slaughter House.

The two cows belonging the Co-operative Society, the Medical Officer considered fit for food, but the pig and cow (belonging Mr. McMellon) were condemned and were buried.

Mr. Robertson, our Surveyor, reports that during the past year thirty four water services affecting fifty five houses have been put in, thus rendering effective all the deficient supplies in the locality.

The water mains were flushed weekly also the sewers flushed and disinfected.

It is gratifying, gentlemen, to note the increase in the birth rate and the considerable decrease in the death rate, both as regards the general and infantile statistics.

This with the tables attached, concludes my Annual Report for 1908.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN CLARK, M.D., F.R.C.S., Ed.

M. O. H.

EHEN HOUSE,  
CLEATOR MOOR,  
25TH JANUARY, 1909.

TABLE 1.—Cleator Moor Urban District; Statistics of Whole District.

YEAR.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of NEUT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Number.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At All Ages.		Number.	Rate. *	Number.	Rate. *
			Number.	Rate. *	Number.	Rate. *				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1898	8522	254	29.8	37	146	143	16.7	1	144	16.8
1899	8388	251	29.9	20	79	98	11.6			
1900	8254	271	32.8	34	125	168	20.3			
1901	8120	244	30.0	32	131	122	15.0	1	122	15.1
1902	8258	272	32.9	28	103	134	16.2			
1903	7900	228	28.8	26	122	103	13.0			
1904	7880	252	31.9	35	138	138	17.5	9	112	14.1
1905	8000	223	27.8	24	107	150	18.7	7	145	18.4
1906	8000	215	26.8	39	181	129	16.1	12	141	19.6
1907	8000	249	31.1	28	112	136	17.0	10	146	17.6
Averages for Years 1898-1907.		245	30.1	30.5	124.4	132.1	16.2			
1908	8000	260	32.5	25	92.9	116	14.5	2	118	14.7

\* Rates in Column 4, 8, and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The Deaths included in column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the District or Division. The deaths included in column 10 are the number in column 7, with the addition of the number in column 9.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2,947. Total Population at all Ages, 8,120; Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,592; Average number of persons per house, 5.1—at Census of 1901.

There are no Institutions within the district receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the district.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District:—(1) Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary; (2) Gaemire Isolation Hospital, Hensingham; (3) Whitehaven Workhouse Infirmary; (4) Garlands Asylum, Carlisle.

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT					
	At Ages—Years.					
At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Erysipelas ... ... ... ...		7				
Scarlet Fever ... ... ...	8		3	2	5	
			5			
Totals .. .. .. ..	15		3	5	2	5

No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from District.—Scarlet Fever, 5. Total, 5.

Isolation Hospital—Galemire Fever Hospital, situated in Parish of Hensingham, near to Cleator Boundary.

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.			65 and upwards.
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	15 and under 25.	
Epidemic influenza ...	5	1	1	...	2
Diarrhoea ...	1	2	...	...	3
Enteritis ...	2	...	...	...	8
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	12	2	4	2	2
Other tubercular diseases ...	8	...	2	4	4
Cancer, malignant disease ...	6	5	1	1	5
Bronchitis ...	11	1	2	1	1
Pneumonia ...	8	...	...	1	1
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of liver ...	1	...	...	...	...
Premature birth ...	1	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	3	...	2	7	5
Heart diseases ...	3	14	1	1	1
Accidents ...	...	...	1	1	1
Suicides ...	3	...	2	2	2
Brights Disease ...	2	...	11	...	11
Senile Decay ...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes ...	28	10	1	13	4
All causes ...	118	25	4	10	48
					29

The district consists of one undivided area. No Institutions in the district.

CAUSE OF DEATH.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths under One Year.			Total Deaths under One Year.
	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	
Diarrhoea, all forms	...			1
Enteritis, Mucico-enteritis				1
Gastro-enteritis				1
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh				1
Premature Birth	...	1		1
Congenital Defects	...	2		1
Injury at Birth	...	1		1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus		1	1	2
Tuberculous Meningitis		2	1	1
Tuberculous Peritonitis		1	1	1
Tabes Mesenterica		1	1	1
Convulsions	...	1	1	1
Bronchitis	...	1	1	1
Pneumonia	...	2	1	1
Other Causes	...	1	1	1
	5	1	1	25
	7	5	3	
	5	3	3	
	1	1	3	
	1	3	3	

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.  
Births in the Year of Legitimate and Illegitimate, 260. Deaths in the Year of Legitimate and Illegitimate  
infants, 25. Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 118.

**Urban District Council of Cleator Moor.**  
**Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces,**  
**and Homework.**

**1.—INSPECTION.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or  
 Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories ... (including Factory Laundries)	46	4	Nil.
Workshops ... (Including Works op Laundries)	93	2	Nil.
Workplaces ... (Other than Outworkers' Premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total ... ...	139	6	Nil.

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of of Prosecu- tions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred H. M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness ...	5	5	Nil.	Nil.
Want of Ventilation ...	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Other Nuisances ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total ... ...	6	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

### 3.—HOME WORK—Nil.

### 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Worshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number
(1)	(2)
(1).—Cleator Moor Co-operative Society's Bakehouse, Earl Street, this is registered as a Factory having mechanical power	
(2).—Mr. J. W. Carr's Bakehouse in High Street, this is registered as a Workshop	
(3).—Mr. A. Farquharson's Bakehouse in High Street, this is an Underground Bakehouse, and registered as a Workshop.	
Total number of Workshop on Register ... ...	31

JOHN CLARK, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed.

25th January, 1909.

Medical Officer of Health.

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### WHITEHAVEN:

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